

U.S.S.N. 09/662,927
Filed: September 15, 2000
AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Remarks

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 9 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,505,710 to Collins ("Collins"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections to the extent that they are applied to the claims as amended.

Claims 1-9, 19, 22, 23, 27, 28 and 30-33 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate a Markush grouping of the limitations of dependent claims 6-8, 19 and 22, all of which were allowable but dependent on a rejected independent claim. Claims 27 and 30, which were also objected to as dependent upon a rejected independent claim, have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 33 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 6.

Applicants believe that it is proper for the present amendments to be entered since they do not add any new matter, raise any new issues, and nor require further consideration or search, and should place all claims in condition for allowance.

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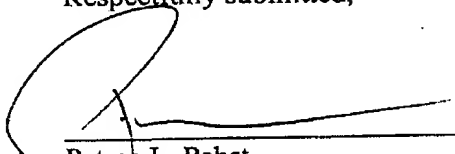
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Allowance of all claims 1-9, 19, 22, 23, 27, 28 and 30-33, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



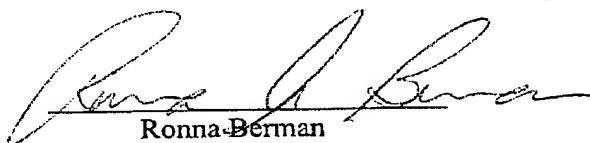
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Date: May 3, 2004

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Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this Amendment and Response to Office Action, and any documents referred to as attached therein are being facsimile transmitted on this date, May 3, 2004, to the Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Ronna Berman

Date: May 3, 2004